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Big Red football fans keep UNL police busy

By Ann Lowe

Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

Editor's note: This is the second article in a five-part series exploring various issues behind Nebraska football.

Take UNL's Memorial Stadium on a big game day and pack it with 76,000 screaming fans. Give the fans a little booze and some

Behind Big Red

oranges to throw. Things could get pretty wild. Someone might even get hurt.

Two years ago, someone did get hurt. In the 1982 Nebraska-Oklahoma game, Sgt. Marv Kinion of the UNL Police Department was struck by a frozen orange thrown from the stands. Neck injuries forced Kinion to take disability retirement at age 56. He still wears a neck brace and continues with physical therapy.

Since last fall, UNL officials have tried to prevent similar accidents. Fans are not allowed to bring large coolers, glass containers and oranges into the stadium.

A closed-circuit television system was installed in the press box so police officers can keep a closer watch on the crowds.

The rules may be stiffer and the equipment may be sophisticated, but it's still a big job to keep the stadium clean, orderly and safe on Big Red football Saturdays.

Game days start peacefully about 5:30 a.m., when groundskeeper Bill Shepard arrives at the stadium. Shepard and about 18 other grounds and maintenance workers spend the morning dusting seats and bleachers, setting up folding chairs and running a giant vacuum over the inside of the stadium, said building mechanic Dick Lutz.

As fans pour in from all over Lincoln and UNL police officers stand in parking lots and busy intersections to direct traffic. Capt. Jim Baird of the Lincoln Police Department said LPD sends about 35 officers to direct traffic before the games and about 45 after.

Other officers are stationed at the stadium gates to help ticket takers keep coolers and other contraband out of the stadium.

The officers don't frisk fans or search parcels, said Lt. Joe Wehner of the UNL Police Department. But Wehner said the new restrictions have limited the amount of alcohol that gets carried into the stadium.

Altogether, about 110 officers are on duty at the stadium during game time, including UNL and city police and Nebraska State Patrol officers and Lancaster County sheriff deputies, Wehner said. As some officers patrol the stadium, others keep their eyes on the TV monitors to find fans who are drinking, fighting or throwing things, he said.

Besides the security officers, about 45 volunteers from the American Red Cross, four nurses and two doctors are on duty to handle medical emergencies, said Del Weed, UNL coordinator for spectator emergencies. Backed by two ambulances and a mobile heart unit, this health team typically responds to 15 to 20 emergencies at every game, treating everything from bee stings and minor scrapes to chest pains and shortness of breath, Weed said.

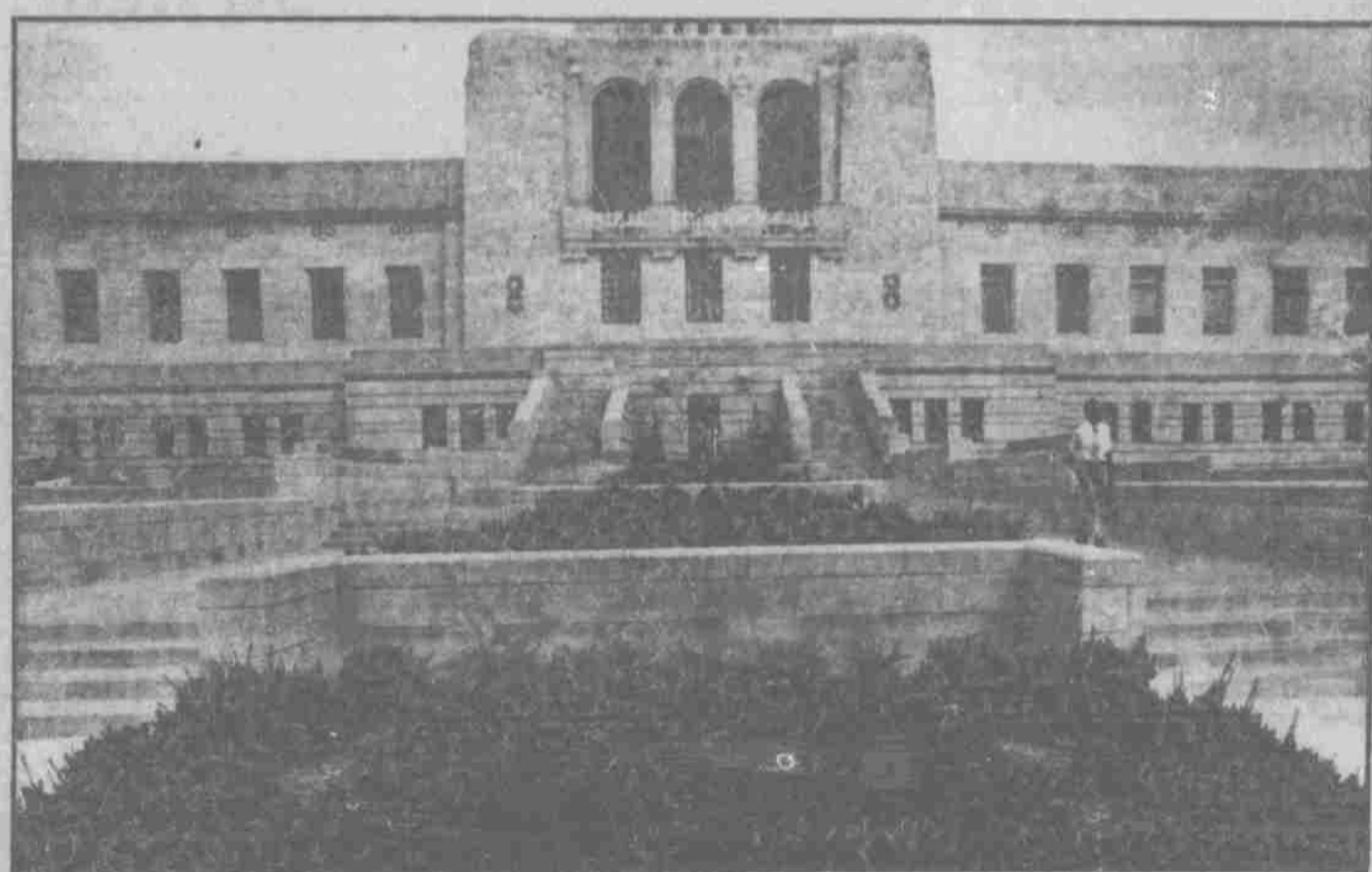
Chest pains usually are "more from anxiety than anything else," Weed said. No fan has had a heart attack at the stadium for a year and a half, he said.

Weed said the number of medical emergencies has decreased since last season's crackdown on bottles and coolers. Fewer people are tripping in the aisles, and fewer fans are getting drunk and getting sick at the games, he said.

But Cornhusker games aren't completely trouble-free, he said. It's still "not uncommon," he said, for officers to interrupt fights and escort unruly fans from the stadium.

About eight minutes before game's end, most of the police officers head back to the streets to guide post-game traffic. Then, after the game is over and the fans are gone, the Big Red cleanup begins.

UNL police officers take lost and found items to the campus station, where they are kept for seven days, then given to charity, Wehner said. On Sunday, the grounds crew and volunteers start the cleanup, which usually takes about 150 work hours a week, said UNL Grounds Director Bud Dasenbrock.



David Creamer/Daily Nebraskan

Statehouse gets facelift

A good deal of renovating will be done around the south entrance of the Capitol. Story on Page 6.

Learning disabled students get help from specially trained counselors

By Brad Gifford

Daily Nebraskan Staff Writer

The learning disabled sometimes fight a silent battle.

Many colleges and universities do not offer a program to help them because of limited funding for special services. The learning disabled have been on the fringe of special program spending because their problems are not as visible and are sometimes more difficult to detect.

UNL now is reaching out to learning disabled students with a new program to help them adjust to and overcome their problems.

Before this program, UNL could offer only standard academic advisers to students with learning disabilities. UNL Affirmative Action officer Bradley Munn said that was not enough.

"Learning disabled students have special problems and need specially-trained counselors," Munn said.

Although this need was assessed years ago, it was not met until money for the new program was provided by an anonymous donation from a local family and a grant from Burlington Northern Railroad.

Three specially trained counselors and Munn, who mainly refer students to the appropriate advisers, now are available 24 hours a day, every day. They act as a liaison between students and teachers, concentrating on building students' abilities to do basic tasks, like spelling, reading and writing.

The program currently has 20 participants, but Munn said he thinks that there are other students who have not yet asked for assistance. Many students may not realize they have a learning disorder. Others may know they have a problem but are afraid to ask for help or do not know how to handle it. Munn said the program can help all of these people.

The service is operating on a trial basis, Munn said. He will evaluate the number of students in the project, the different types of counseling and the effectiveness of the whole program to determine its future.

Stewart Porterfield, a junior majoring in music, said the program is "very worthwhile, but maybe I'm a little biased."

Porterfield has dyslexia, a neurological disorder that causes him to transpose letters when he

writes.

Like his father, mother and sister, Porterfield attended Washington University in St. Louis. He said that WU was a Harvard-type school, but after four years he quit. He was frustrated because no one could help him with his problem.

Porterfield, in his first semester at UNL, decided to enroll even before the new service had opened because people like Munn "sat down and talked with me."

"I told him we didn't have what he was looking for, but that we'd do everything we could," Munn said.

Now Porterfield is getting the chance to do everything he is capable of. He said he doubted that he could graduate from WU, but he now has his sights on graduate school and teaching.

"If you get through school but can't write things down, you have nothing," Porterfield said. "I'm not going to come out of here with just a piece of paper, but something that works."

Learning disabled students interested in the program can reach Munn at 472-3417 or visit his office, Administration 504.

Copple's prison sentence begins 'wheels of justice'

By John Meissner

Daily Nebraskan Senior Reporter

In what now sounds naive, a Daily Nebraskan editorial on Nov. 15, 1983, two weeks after the collapse of Commonwealth said: "When this whole situation (Commonwealth) is over, we may find that there were no fraudulent or illegal actions. But if there was any wrongdoing, the state has a responsibility to uncover it and punish those involved."

With the sentencing last Friday of former Commonwealth President S. E. Copple to 12-14 months in prison, the state, 10 months after the collapse of Commonwealth, took its first step towards punishing those involved.

"One of the problems with the wheels of justice is they grind very slowly," State Banking Director Roger Beverage said Monday, adding that thwarted efforts to return depositors' money or gain retribution in court are "very frustrating to them and us."

A list of the major parties indicted, acquitted, or convicted in court because of their actions follows.

Paul Douglas — The state Attorney General escaped unscathed from a Nebraska Supreme Court impeachment trial in March and a federal grand jury investigation which ended earlier this month. However, he faces charges of perjury and obstruction of justice in

a Lancaster County trial scheduled for Nov. 26. It is rumored he appeared before the Nebraska State Bar Association inquiry committee in Omaha (all disciplinary proceedings are kept confidential). Both the court and the Bar are looking into Douglas' business dealing with Marvin Copple, Commonwealth's former vice president. If the court finds Douglas innocent, Beverage said that "ends all criminal matters...unless they come back with another indictment."

State Banking Department and the State of Nebraska — These entities have been sued by the receiver of Commonwealth and 140 Commonwealth depositors.

The former suit put the State Banking Department, named as the receiver of Commonwealth, in the unique position of suing itself. Both a \$57 million tort claim and compromise \$33 million claim were rejected by the Lancaster County Court, however. The latter suit asks for \$1.8 million because of negligence.

S. E. Copple — Although he faces no other charges in return for providing information to authorities, the 87-year-old Copple awaits sentencing for a similar conspiracy charge he pleaded "no contest" to in federal court.

Newt Copple — Charges of aiding and abetting in Lancaster County District Court are still

pending for the son of S. E. Copple. Additionally, he has been sentenced to 16-24 months in prison for forgery used in obtaining a loan from the Beatrice firms he presided over. Like his father, however, he is free pending appeal of the sentence on grounds of cruel and unusual punishment.

Marvin Copple — Lancaster County District Court is prosecuting Copple on two felony counts of theft for two payments totaling \$500,000 he received from Commonwealth, but again, like his father, he is protected from further state and federal charges in return for his testimony in the upcoming Paul Douglas case.